

# **ARIZONA WATER PROTECTION FUND COMMISSION**

## **Business Meeting – February 8, 2022**

Virtual Meeting via Cisco WebEx  
Meeting Number (Access Code): 2594 300 4473  
Meeting Password: 8xsBmQt5ic43  
1-415-655-0001 US Toll

### *Final Meeting Minutes*

#### **ATTENDANCE**

##### **Commission Voting Members Present**

Pat Jacobs – Chairman  
Rodney Held – Vice-Chairman  
Brian Biesemeyer  
Shelley Blackmore  
William Schock  
Tina Thompson  
Stephen Turcotte

##### **Arizona Water Protection Fund Staff**

Kelly Brown  
Sharon Scantlebury  
Reuben Teran

##### **Commission Voting Members Absent**

None

##### **Commission Non-voting, Ex-Officio Members Present**

None

Prior to making a call to order, Chairman Pat Jacobs announced the recent passing of former Arizona Water Protection Fund (AWPF) Commissioner Lucinda Earven, and a moment of silence was taken.

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Jacobs called the meeting of the AWPf Commission to order at 10:01 a.m.

Chairman Jacobs requested to move item IV.1. – Commission Membership Update forward in the agenda to have the Executive Director provide the update which would also facilitate the agenda item II. Commissioner Member Roll Call.

#### **ARIZONA WATER PROTECTION FUND PROGRAM UPDATES**

##### *Commission Membership Update*

Mr. Reuben Teran provided an update on the current membership status of Arizona Water Protection Fund Commissioners.

#### **COMMISSION MEMBER ROLL CALL**

Mr. Teran called the roll of the AWPf Commission. Commissioners present at the time of roll call included Chairman Pat Jacobs, Vice-Chairman Rodney Held, Commissioner Brian Biesemeyer, Commissioner Shelley Blackmore, Commissioner William Schock, Commissioner Tina Thompson, and Commissioner Stephen Turcotte. A quorum of voting Commission members was present.

Mr. Teran also called the role for non-voting, ex-officio members of the Commission. None were present, but Ms. Liza Logan stated she was in attendance on behalf of the State Land Department.

#### **AWPF COMMISSION FINAL MEETING MINUTES FORMAT**

No formal action taken. Chairman Pat Jacobs directed staff to work with legal council to clarify if the meeting recording could still be maintained for future reference if summarized meeting minutes were adopted by the Commission. He also requested that an example of abbreviated meeting minutes be prepared for the Commission's review for the next meeting, along with the legal determination on the video and/or audio recording storage timeframe.

#### **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

Vice-Chairman made a motion to approve the minutes, with a second from Commissioner Biesemeyer. Chairman Jacobs asked for any discussion on the motion. Vice-Chairman Held stated he had minor edits for consideration. Chairman Jacobs stated that there is a motion before the Commission with the understanding that suggested typographical and grammatical corrections will be administratively accepted as part of the approved meeting minutes. Chairman Jacobs the requested for a roll call vote on the motion:

Pat Jacobs – Chairman	Aye
Rodney Held – Vice-Chairman	Aye
Brian Biesemeyer	Aye
Shelley Blackmore	Aye
William Schock	Aye
Tina Thompson	Aye
Stephen Turcotte	Aye

The motion passed unanimously.

#### **PROJECT CLOSEOUT PRESENTATION. AWPF GRANT 19-194WPF: DAVIS CATTLE CO. GRASSLAND RESTORATION**

Mr. Teran introduced Deborah Smith, Arizona Association of Conservation Districts, who provided the Commission a project closeout presentation.

#### **AWPF GRANT 20-202WPF: GILA VALLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT SYSTEM OPTIMIZATION PHASE I**

Mr. Teran introduced Mr. Justin Layton, representing the Gila Valley Irrigation District, who provided a background on the project and circumstances related to the request for changes to the grant award contract.

Vice-Chairman Held made a motion that the Commission approve the request to modify the project scope of work, add additional funding to the grant award contract, and extend the grant award contract expiration date, with a second from Commissioner Stephen Turcotte.

For clarification, Mr. Teran stated the motion includes the following: approving a 1-year contract extension; modifying the project scope of work from 156 gates on 3 canals to 58 gates on 2 canals, and additional funding of \$365,927 to the grant award contract. Vice-Chairman Held concurred with the clarification provided.

Chairman Jacobs called for a roll call vote on the motion:

Pat Jacobs – Chairman	Aye
Rodney Held – Vice-Chairman	Nay
Brian Biesemeyer	Aye
Shelley Blackmore	Aye
William Schock	Nay
Tina Thompson	Aye
Stephen Turcotte	Aye

The motion passed with 5 aye votes and 2 nay votes.

**AWPF GRANT 20-204WPF: WINKELMAN NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT RIPARIAN RESTORATION**

Mr. Teran introduced Mr. Kyle Thompson, representing the Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District, who provided a background on the project and circumstances related to the request to amend the grant award contract expiration date to December 31, 2023. Commissioner Turcotte stated that he is the Vice-Chair of the Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District and recused himself from the discussion on this agenda item.

Vice-Chairman Held made a motion to extend the grant award contract expiration date for AWPf Grant 20-204WPF: Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District Riparian Restoration, with a second from Commissioner Blackmore.

Mr. Teran clarified that the Grantee's request is for a one-year contract extension, and Chairman Jacobs called for a roll call vote on the motion:

Pat Jacobs – Chairman	Aye
Rodney Held – Vice-Chairman	Aye
Brian Biesemeyer	Aye
Shelley Blackmore	Aye
William Schock	Aye
Tina Thompson	Aye
Stephen Turcotte	Recused

The motion passed with 6 aye votes and 1 recusal.

**AWPF GRANT 20-205WPF: UPPER, MIDDLE, AND LOWER FOSSIL CREEK INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL**

Mr. Teran introduced Ms. Sasha Stortz, representing the National Forest Foundation, who provided a background on the project and circumstances related to the request to amend the grant award contract expiration date to May 7, 2025.

Commissioner Biesemeyer made a motion to extend the grant award contract expiration date for AWPf Grant 20-205WPF: Upper, Middle, and Lower Fossil Creek Invasive Plant Removal to May 7, 2025, with a second from Commissioner Turcotte.

Chairman Jacobs called for a roll call vote on the motion:

Pat Jacobs – Chairman	Aye
Rodney Held – Vice-Chairman	Aye
Brian Biesemeyer	Aye
Shelley Blackmore	Aye
William Schock	Aye
Tina Thompson	Aye
Stephen Turcotte	Aye

The motion passed unanimously.

### **ARIZONA WATER PROTECTION FUND PROGRAM UPDATES (continued)**

#### *Financial Update*

Mr. Teran provided an Arizona Water Protection Fund balance update.

#### *Legislative Update*

Mr. Teran provided a legislative update.

#### *Status Updates for Active Grant Award Contracts*

Mr. Teran provided a grant status update.

### **GRANT CYCLE PLANNING**

Vice-Chairman Held made motion to authorize the Executive Director to plan for a Fiscal Year 2023 grant cycle and plan for a minimum of 2 days for the application presentation process to facilitate additional time with the grant applicants for questions prior to the grant awards, with a second from Commissioner Blackmore.

Chairman Jacobs called for a roll call vote on the motion:

Pat Jacobs – Chairman	Aye
Rodney Held – Vice-Chairman	Aye
Brian Biesemeyer	Aye
Shelley Blackmore	Aye
William Schock	Not Present
Tina Thompson	Aye
Stephen Turcotte	Aye

The motion passed with 6 Aye votes and 1 Not Present.

### **GRANT APPLICATION MANUAL DEVELOPMENT**

Vice-Chairman Held made a motion that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to move forward with the development of the grant application manual in accordance with the other direction given for the grant cycle planning, with second from Commissioners Biesemeyer.

Chairman Jacobs called for a roll call vote on the motion:

Pat Jacobs – Chairman	Aye
Rodney Held – Vice-Chairman	Aye
Brian Biesemeyer	Aye
Shelley Blackmore	Aye
William Schock	Not Present
Tina Thompson	Aye
Stephen Turcotte	Aye

The motion passed with 6 Aye votes and 1 Not Present.

### **CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Chairman Pat Jacobs made a call to the public.

Supervisor Harry Oberg, Yavapai County Board of Supervisors addressed the Commission.

Lynn Whitman, Yavapai County Flood Control District addressed the Commission.

Chairman Jacobs requested the to place the Kirkland Restoration of Proper Stream Channel Characteristics Project on the agenda for an informational discussion at the next Commission meeting.

### **CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Chairman Jacobs made a call for future agenda items. Proposed future agenda items included:

- AWPf Meeting Minutes format discussion
- Kirkland Restoration of Proper Stream Channel Characteristics Project on the agenda for informational discussion

### **FUTURE MEETING DATE(S)**

Chairman Jacobs selected June 14, 2022 as the next AWPf Commission meeting date.

### **ADJOURN**

Vice-Chairman Held made a motion to adjourn, with a second from Commissioner Turcotte. The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

**Commission Members**

Pat Jacobs, Chairman  
 Rodney Held, Vice Chairman  
 Brian Biesemeyer  
 Shelley Blackmore  
 Paul Brick  
 William Schock  
 Stephen Turcotte

**Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission**

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**Executive Director**

Reuben Teran

**Ex-Officio Members**

Thomas Buschatzke  
 Director  
 AZ Department of Water Resources

Lisa Atkins  
 State Land Commissioner  
 AZ State Land Department

**Advisory Members**

The Honorable Sine Kerr  
 AZ State Senate

The Honorable David L. Cook  
 AZ House of Representatives

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02, notice is hereby given that there will be a meeting of the Arizona Water Protection Fund (AWPF) Commission on **Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.** This meeting is open to the public. Due to safety considerations during the COVID-19 pandemic and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for large events and mass gatherings, the AWPF Commission will be conducting this meeting in a virtual format. The meeting information and agenda are described below.

**Cisco Webex Meeting Information**

Link:

[https://www.google.com/url?q=https://azwater.webex.com/azwater/j.php?MTID%3Dm6dc7addaf0e6a6d4888c16f98b0344bb&sa=D&source=calendar&ust=1643470160261119&usg=AOvVaw1n\\_h5tzENRWusIvFpUy4rt](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://azwater.webex.com/azwater/j.php?MTID%3Dm6dc7addaf0e6a6d4888c16f98b0344bb&sa=D&source=calendar&ust=1643470160261119&usg=AOvVaw1n_h5tzENRWusIvFpUy4rt)

Meeting Number (Access Code): 2594 300 4473

Meeting Password: 8xsBmQt5ic4

or

**Join by Phone**

1-415-655-0001 US Toll

Access Code: 2594 300 4473

Dated this 1<sup>st</sup> day of February 2022

**Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission**  
**Meeting Agenda**

- I. Call to Order –Chairman Pat Jacobs
- II. Commission Member Roll Call – Executive Director
- III. AWPF Commission Final Meeting Minutes Format
  - The Commission will discuss and may provide direction on the preferred media format for future AWPF Commission meeting minutes.
- IV. Review and Approval of the November 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes – Chairman Pat Jacobs

**Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission**  
**Notice of Public Meeting and February 8, 2022 Meeting Agenda (continued)**

- V. Project Closeout Presentation. AWPf Grant 19-194WPF: Davis Cattle Co. Grassland Restoration – Arizona Association of Conservation Districts
  - The Commission will be updated on the final status and results of the project.
- VI. AWPf Grant 20-202WPF: Gila Valley Irrigation District System Optimization Phase I - Gila Valley Irrigation District
  - The Commission will discuss and may take action on the request from the Grantee to modify the project scope of work, add additional funding to the grant award contract, and extend the grant award contract expiration date.
- VII. AWPf Grant 20-204WPF: Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District Riparian Restoration – Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District
  - The Commission will discuss and may take action on the request from the Grantee to extend the grant award contract expiration date.
- VIII. AWPf Grant 20-205WPF: Upper, Middle, and Lower Fossil Creek Invasive Plant Removal – National Forest Foundation
  - The Commission will discuss and may take action on the request from the Grantee to extend the grant award contract expiration date.
- IX. Arizona Water Protection Fund Program Updates – Executive Director
  - Commission Membership Update
  - Financial Update
  - Legislative Update
  - Status Updates for Active Grant Award Contracts
- X. Grant Cycle Planning – Executive Director
  - The Commission will discuss and may provide direction on planning for a future grant cycle.
- XI. Grant Application Manual Development – Executive Director
  - The Commission will discuss and may provide direction on updating the grant application content requirements for future grant application manuals.
- XII. Call to the Public – Chairman Jacobs
  - Comments from the public will be limited to 3 minutes per speaker.
- XIII. Call for Future Agenda Items
- XIV. Future Meeting Date(s) – Chairman Jacobs
- XV. Adjourn – Chairman Jacobs

**Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission**  
**Notice of Public Meeting and February 8, 2022 Meeting Agenda (continued)**

- *The Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission may elect to go into Executive Session for the purposes of obtaining legal advice from its attorney on any of the listed agenda items pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3). Executive sessions are not open to the public.*
- *Agenda items may be taken out of order. No action may be taken on items unless specifically noted on the agenda.*
- *Members of the Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission may appear by telephone.*
- *Agenda and backup/supporting documents can be obtained by contacting Sharon Scantlebury at 602-771-3957 or [sscantlebury@azwater.gov](mailto:sscantlebury@azwater.gov).*
- *People with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations such as interpreters, alternate formats, or assistant with physical accessibility. If you require accommodations, please contact Jennifer Marteniez at (602) 771-8426 or by e-mailing [jkmarteniez@azwater.gov](mailto:jkmarteniez@azwater.gov) Please make requests as soon as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.*



# ARIZONA WATER PROTECTION FUND COMMISSION

## Business Meeting – November 16, 2021

Virtual Meeting via Cisco WebEx

Meeting Number (Access Code): 2596 516 4569

Meeting Password: EkAdh9pyv33

1-415-655-0001 US Toll

### *DRAFT Meeting Minutes*

#### **ATTENDANCE**

##### **Commission Voting Members Present**

Pat Jacobs – Chairman

Rodney Held – Vice-Chairman

Brian Biesemeyer

Shelley Blackmore

Paul Brick

William Schock

Stephen Turcotte

##### **Arizona Water Protection Fund Staff**

Sharon Scantlebury

Kelly Brown

Reuben Teran

##### **Commission Voting Members Absent**

Lucinda Earven

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Pat Jacobs called the meeting of the Arizona Water Protection Fund (AWPF) Commission to order at 10:00 a.m.

#### **COMMISSION MEMBER ROLL CALL**

Mr. Reuben Teran called the roll of the AWPf Commission. Commissioners present at the time of roll call included Chairman Pat Jacobs, Vice-Chairman Rodney Held, Commissioner Shelley Blackmore, Commissioner Paul Brick, Commissioner William Schock, and Commissioner Stephen Turcotte. A quorum of voting Commission members was present. Commissioner Brian Biesemeyer was present but was having audio issues during the roll call.

#### **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE June 15, 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Jacobs asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the draft meeting minutes. Vice-Chairman Held stated that he does have one substantive correction for the minutes on page 6, paragraph 4, sentence one. He stated that sentence should read:

*“Vice-Chairman Held stated that based on the current situation and available information he does not think the Commission can waive the current requirements as stated in the grant award contract, but if the grantee filed for a separate surface water right claim then the Commission may be able to consider the grantee’s request again.”*

Vice-Chairman Held made a motion to approve the June 15, 2021 meeting minutes as corrected, with a second from Commissioner Paul Brick. Chairman Jacobs asked for a discussion on the motion. There was no discussion and Chairman Jacobs asked for a vote on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **ARIZONA WATER PROTECTION FUND PROGRAM UPDATES**

### *Grant Award Contracts Withdrawn by the Grantees*

#### 19-199WPF: Project Title: Headwater Stream Restoration - Coyote Springs, Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff

Mr. Teran stated that a letter has been submitted by the grantee indicating that they are requesting to withdraw the AWPf grant, and the letter was made available in the AWPf Commission meeting materials. Chairman Jacobs asked for any comments or questions from the Commission. No comments were made.

#### 19-201WPF: Webber Creek Sediment Control Project

Mr. Teran stated that a letter has been submitted by the grantee indicating that they are requesting to withdraw the AWPf grant, and the letter was made available in the AWPf Commission meeting materials. Chairman Jacobs asked for any comments or questions from the Commission. No comments were made.

### *Withdrawal of Fiscal Year 2022 Grant Application*

#### WPF2212: Wagon Wheel Tank Water Storage

Mr. Teran stated that an email has been submitted by a representative of the applicant indicating that they are requesting to withdraw the grant application from consideration, and the email was made available in the AWPf Commission meeting materials. Chairman Jacobs asked for any comments or questions from the Commission. No comments were made.

### *Fund Balance Update*

Mr. Teran displayed a financial table and stated that the figures displayed on this table are projected funds based on anticipated income for the program, and that it does not reflect the current financial status in the State accounting system. He also stated that this information is provided to inform the Commission on monies that will be available to grant as part of the meeting later in the day.

Mr. Teran commented that the projected fund balance for June 30, 2022 is \$3,229,999. Existing grant obligations as of October 31, 2021 are \$1,162,537, and the uncommitted fund balance is projected for June 30, 2022 is \$2,067,462. He further stated that projected administration support for 3 years to support any new grant awards is \$485,160, and the projected funds available to grant for fiscal year 2022 is \$1,582,302.

Vice-Chairman Held inquired if the projected funding available to grant includes the funds from the 2 grant award contracts that have been withdrawn. Mr. Teran responded that the total available to grant does include the funding amounts from the grants that were withdrawn.

### *Grant Application Voting Process*

Mr. Teran stated that in past grant cycles there has been more funding requested than available to grant, and the Commission has opted to have each member provide the top 3 or 4 projects they

support to identify high, medium, and low Commission funding priorities. He stated that in this grant cycle there is more funding available to grant than has been requested, and the Commission will need to decide how they would like to proceed with voting on grant applications during agenda item VII. Fiscal Year 2022 Grant Cycle Awards.

Chairman Jacobs asked if there were any comments or questions. Vice-Chairman Held inquired if a decision to fund a project is “all or nothing”, or if the Commission can remove a component from a project, if necessary. Mr. Teran responded that the cover page of the grant application contains a clause stating, “*The Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission may approve Grant Awards with modifications to scope items, methodology, schedule, final products and/or budget.*” Mr. Teran also stated that the AWPf staff reviews for each application may include contract conditions that are recommended to be added to a project if the application is selected for funding.

Commissioner Bill Schock commented that some applications submitted this fiscal year did not seem to fit within the overall scope of the Arizona Water Protection Fund program. Chairman Jacobs stated that the Commission should address this concern during the discussion under agenda item VII. Fiscal Year 2022 Grant Cycle Awards. Commissioner Brian Biesemeyer commented that he also shares the concerns expressed by Commissioner Schock.

Commissioner Brick commented that the Commission should not change an application and evaluate it from what been submitted, otherwise other applicants could have the opportunity to change theirs later. He requested clarification if any changes that are made take place when the grant award contract is developed. Mr. Teran responded that if any changes are requested by the Commission during the approval of a grant application those changes are incorporated into the grant award contract.

#### **COMMISSION CONFLICT OF INTEREST NOTICE** (Tabled)

Due to the time certain items listed on the agenda, this agenda item was tabled for later in the meeting.

#### **FISCAL YEAR 2022 GRANT APPLICANT PRESENTATIONS**

*WPF2206 – Dye Ranch Erosion Control and Wetland Improvement Project*

- Presenter: Audrey Owens, Arizona Game and Fish Department

Ms. Owens provided a power point presentation.

Commission Shelly Blackmore inquired about bats and frogs being described in the project and their purpose. Ms. Owens stated that they are both important for species diversity and provide ecosystem benefits. She further commented that the Arizona Game and Fish goal is to get a self-sustaining population of Northern leopard frogs established at Dye Ranch.

Commissioner Schock commented about soil compaction mentioned in the presentation and inquired how compaction was measured and how much that has decreased since livestock were removed. Ms. Owens responded stated that project partners did take soil clay measurements during a recent site visit and found that the ground was high in clay content and the project would not require liners to help maintain water availability. Ms. Owens also stated that she is unable to answer the question related to changes when livestock were removed since there was no previous soil data available. Commissioner Schock commented about previous head cut treatments and was interested in how those were implemented. Ms. Owens stated she could provide some information and Chairman Jacobs stated that any information could be provided to Mr. Teran who would then provide them to Commissioner Schock.

Vice-Chairman Held commented that a Statement of Claim for surface water has been filed for surface water in the project area, but stated that for the purposes of this project he believes that it may be more appropriate for the applicant to be seeking a Certificate of Water Right. He recommended that further discussion take place with the Arizona Department of Water Resources on the project to determine what would type of right or permit would be necessary for this project.

*WPF2204 – The Path to Protection at Oak Creek: Social Trail Rehabilitation for Watershed Health*

- Presenter: Ron Tiller, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

Mr. Tiller provided a power point presentation. Chairman Jacobs asked for any questions or comments on the presentation or project. There were no questions or comments.

*WPF2201 – Verde River Riparian Restoration - Highway 89A to Bignotti Picnic Site*

- Presenter: Tracy Stephens, Friends of the Verde River

Ms. Stephens provided a power point presentation. Chairman Jacobs asked for any questions or comments on the presentation or project.

Commissioner Biesemeyer inquired if the Verde Village Property Owners Association has consented to the proposed pond restoration plan. Ms. Stephens responded that Friends of the Verde River has been working with the Property Owners Association president and they are very excited to work with them to get this project going.

Vice-Chairman Held commented that he likes this project, but his biggest concern relates to the proposed pond component for Verde Village Property Owners Association since it appears that there is no legal evidence of a water right to support the pond. He is also concerned that there is not clear direction of what is planned for the project in the context of a park or community amenity, or what role the pond would play as part of the design phase. Ms. Stephens responded that her understanding is that the area was previously irrigated, and they will work with the Verde Village Property Owners Association to get more information.

She also stated that current input from homeowners is mixed between having a smaller pond feature and others wanting a park like amenity so there is not consensus on a final design at this time.

Commissioner Blackmore inquired how much funding was requested for the total project. Ms. Stephens responded \$300,000.

*WPF2210 – Enhancement and Maintenance Plans and Designs for Three Rio de Flag Perennial Ponds and Related Wetlands*

- Presenter: Edward Schenk, City of Flagstaff

Mr. Schenk provided an overview of the project via telephone. Chairman Jacobs asked for any questions or comments on the presentation or project.

Commissioner Biesemeyer inquired if there were separate costs for assessing the structural conditions of the Cheshire Dam. Mr. Schenk responded that he could not specifically answer the question at this time, but believes he could pull that cost out of the budget as a structural engineering component and estimated it at a cost of approximately \$20,000.

Commissioner Schock commented about the proposed budget and stated that AWPf funds are primarily being requested as lump sum costs for consultant services and it is not clear exactly what services AWPf would be paying for or what the deliverables would be. He inquired if AWPf has ever funded a project of this type before. Mr. Teran responded that this project falls within a feasibility of design under the Capital project category, and that a generally similar project was funded during the fiscal year 2019 grant cycle for the City of Prescott. Vice-Chairman Held stated that feasibility studies evolved within the AWPf program due to input from interested parties stating that financial assistance would be helpful to determine if a proposed project could be feasible, with the intent that the applicant would come back to the AWPf to implement the on-the-ground component. Mr. Schenk responded that deliverables would include three separate plans for Cheshire Park, Frances Short Pond, and the Rio Wetlands.

*WPF2209 – Ravenna & Pampas Grass Control along the Colorado River from Glen Canyon Dam to Diamond Creek*

- Presenter: Melissa McMaster, RiversEdge West & Mariposa Botanical and Ecological Consulting, LLC

Ms. McMaster provided a power point presentation. Chairman Jacobs asked for any questions or comments on the presentation or project.

Vice-Chairman Held commented that the AWPf staff review indicated that there was not a letter of support from the National Park Service and concerns regarding the legal and physical availability of access for the project. He inquired if there is documentation from the National Park Service that they approve this project. Ms. McMaster stated that they do have a letter of support from the National Park Service.

Commissioner Schock inquired who will be going on these river trips. Ms. McMaster responded that one motorboat will be used when they go upriver, and three oar powered rafts when they go downriver. Personnel would include three boatman, RiversEdge West staff, National Park Service staff, and other scientists or researchers associated with the Grand Canyon.

Commissioner Blackmore inquired if the targets grass species were nonnative. Ms. McMaster responded that both Ravenna grass and Pampas grass are ornamental, nonnative plants and once they become established, they can create monocultures and outcompete native vegetation. Commissioner Blackmore inquired if there were other nonnative grasses or plants that would be targeted in this project. Ms. McMaster responded that the Ravenna grass and Pampas grass will be the only target species for this project, but they have been mapping Russian Olive and documenting any other nonnative species that are encountered.

*WPF2203 – Little Green Valley Fen Restoration Feasibility Study*

- Presenter: Sasha Stortz, National Forest Foundation

Ms. Stortz provided a power point presentation. Chairman Jacobs asked for any questions or comments on the presentation or project.

Commissioner Schock requested clarification on the task to implement the feasibility study. Ms. Stortz responded that the proposed project will not include any ground disturbing activities, and implementing the feasibility study will involve using the contractors selected in a previous task to implement monitoring and data collection activities.

*WPF2205 – Developing Water Conservation Capacity and Outreach Materials with Local Governments in Rural Arizona*

- Presenter: Ashley Hullinger, University of Arizona

Ms. Hullinger shared her screen to provide a power point presentation. Chairman Jacobs asked for any questions or comments on the presentation or project.

Vice-Chairman Held commented that he had concerns about how this project was going to demonstrate water conservation or increased water supplies that tie back to the AWPf program goals and objectives of benefitting rivers and riparian habitat.

Chairman Jacobs commented that it could be helpful to look at the lessons learned from past AWPf funded projects to help educate other local governments or rural areas about the science available for conservation.

Commissioner Biesemeyer expressed concerns about how the proposed project would connect with the goals of the AWPf.

*WPF2208 – Habitat Restoration in the Gila River Riparian Corridor*

- Presenter: Keira Kauffman, Gila Watershed Partnership of Arizona

Ms. Kauffman shared her screen to provide a power point presentation.

Chairman Jacobs asked if there were any active grants with the AWPf at this time. Ms. Kauffman responded that the last grant from AWPf was closed out in 2019.

Vice-Chairman requested clarification on overlapping treatment units from the 2017 grant and the treatment units proposed for this application. Ms. Kauffman responded that due to limited staff capacity not all acres in a given treatment unit were able to be restored previously, and this application seeks to continue treating new acres within the identified treatment units.

*WPF2207 – Restoration of Tacna Marsh*

- Presenter: Jason Wood, Arizona Game and Fish Department

Mr. Wood shared his screen to provide a power point presentation. Chairman Jacobs asked for any questions or comments on the presentation or project.

Vice-Chairman Held requested clarification if the intent is to transition the water source of the ponds from irrigation water to groundwater. Mr. Wood responded that the water provided by the irrigation district is technically groundwater, and they do intend to continue using the irrigation district water source and supplement it with the proposed solar well water. Vice-Chairman Held recommended that the applicant continue to stay in contact with the Arizona Department of Water Resources Surface Water Program to determine if there may be any issues or concerns pertaining to pumping sub flow of surface water resources from a well.

Commissioner Schock inquired how many acres the proposed pond liners would cover. Mr. Wood responded approximately 4.5 acres. Commissioner Schock commented that water appears to be seeping into the ground at a high rate and inquired what would prevent the areas outside of the lined ponds from drying out. Mr. Wood responded that if the liners work as intended then the surrounding areas will dry out, but the woody species they are intending to plant are only about 10 feet from the water table and emergent vegetation will be planted within the lined pond areas.

Commissioner Blackmore inquired about the level of interest and any financial support provided by the local communities or the general public for the wildlife area. Mr. Wood stated that local participation is

primarily from the irrigation district and a farmer who leases a portion of the property, and they are anticipating support from the local Mule Deer Foundation group.

*WPF2202 – Assessing Aquifer Withdrawals to Sustain Baseflow in Streams and Springs - Coconino/Redwall-Muav Aquifer Modeling Project Phase 2*

- Presenter: Ron Doba, Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership

Mr. Doba provided a power point presentation. Chairman Jacobs asked for any questions or comments on the presentation or project.

Commissioner Blackmore requested clarification on the terms for aquifer saturation and well fields.

Commissioner Schock commented that a climate change model accounted for a 20% reduction of groundwater recharged, and requested clarification if there is expected to be 20% less rainfall due to climate change in the future leading to decreases in groundwater recharge. Mr. Doba responded that the 20% figure came about from researching the number of areas and the reductions in all precipitation types due to climate change and that data was input into the model as recharge.

*WPF2211 – Kirkland Restoration of Proper Stream Channel Characteristics*

- Presenter: Daric Knight, Triangle Natural Resource Conservation District

Commissioner Shelly Blackmore recused herself from any discussion related to this grant application.

Mr. Knight provided a power point presentation. Chairman Jacobs asked for any questions or comments on the presentation or project.

Commissioner Brick inquired what the railroad has done to help mitigate the effects of the flooding. Mr. Knight responded that the issues were not entirely caused by the railroad, but were also caused by other contributing factors such as other roads in the system and historic channel straightening to allow for different types of irrigation systems several decades ago. Mr. Knight also stated that since a similar application was proposed to the AWPFC Commission a few years ago they have been working with the railroad who helped fund the initial research and concept plan designs for the current restoration efforts proposed in this grant application.

Commissioner Biesemeyer inquired if there was a letter of support from the railroad. Mr. Knight responded that there is not a current letter of support for the project from the railroad but did reiterate that the initial research and concepts designs were funded by the railroad and they are still engaged with them in different partnerships.

Chairman Jacobs inquired about the height of the bank construction necessary to redirect water into the channel after it passes under the railroad bridge. Mr. Knight responded that they are not intending to create



a bank higher than what is currently existing, but plan to excavate just over half an acre of the existing stream channel and install rock vanes to encourage the stream stay within the newly excavated stream channel.

### **COMMISSION CONFLICT OF INTEREST NOTICE (continued)**

Mr. Teran stated that all Commissioner members were provided a Commission Conflict of Interest form prior to the meeting that should be filled out and provided to staff if any Commission member believes they have or may have a conflict of interest or other cause to refrain from participating in discussions for any the grant applications submitted for the Fiscal Year 2022 grant cycle.

Mr. Teran stated that he has received two Conflict of Interest forms:

- Commissioner Shelley Blackmore for grant application WPF2211 – Kirkland Restoration of Proper Stream Channel Characteristics
- Commissioner Brian Biesemeyer for grant application WPF2203 – Little Green Valley Fen Restoration Feasibility Study

Mr. Teran requested that Commission members please make their Conflict of Interest or recusals known verbally for the meeting record if not already provided in writing prior to the meeting.

### **FISCAL YEAR 2022 GRANT CYCLE AWARDS**

Chairman Jacobs requested input from Commission members to either discuss each application individually or make recommendations for applications they would like to put on a consent agenda. Commissioner Brick suggested that since there are only 11 grant applications for consideration that the Commission go through each application individually for discussion and voting. Chairman Jacobs asked if there were any objections from Commission members to go through each application individually. No objections were made.

Mr. Teran stated that he has grant application voting and project funding tables in excel format that will assist the Commission in tracking votes and available funding.

Mr. Teran inquired about grant award contract conditions that were noted on the AWPf staff review forms and if the Commission intends to incorporate those as part of the grant award. Vice-Chairman Held commented that he did review all the contract conditions recommended by staff and supports including them as part of the grant award. Commissioner Stephen Turcotte concurred with Vice-Chairman Held's assessment and suggested that staff's recommended grant award contract conditions stand as part of the grant approval. Commissioner Biesemeyer made a motion that all contract conditions recommended in the AWPf staff review of the application be included as part of the grant award approvals, with a second from Vice-Chairman Held.

Chairman Jacobs called for a vote on the motion. Mr. Teran proceeded with a roll call vote:

- |                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| • Chairman Pat Jacobs       | Yes |
| • Vice-Chairman Rodney Held | Yes |

- |                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| • Commissioner Brian Biesemeyer  | Yes |
| • Commissioner Shelley Blackmore | Yes |
| • Commissioner Paul Brick        | Yes |
| • Commissioner William Schock    | Yes |
| • Commissioner Stephen Turcotte  | Yes |

The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Brick inquired how much funding is available for research projects this grant cycle. Mr. Teran responded that the amount available for research project this grant cycle is limited to 5% of the funds deposited into the AWPf that fiscal year. He further stated that because there was a Legislative appropriation of \$1,250,000, the amount available for research projects this grant cycle is \$62,500 and this figure is noted on the funds tracking table.

Vice-Chairman Held requested clarification on the amount of funding available for projects under the water conservation category. Mr. Teran responded that changes to the AWPf statutes in approximately 2013 did away with funding limits on projects submitted under the water conservation category.

WPF2201 – Verde River Riparian Restoration - Highway 89A to Bignotti Picnic Site

Commissioner Brick made a motion to approve application WPF2201 – Verde River Riparian Restoration - Highway 89A to Bignotti Picnic Site, with a second from Vice-Chairman Held. Chairman Jacobs called for any discussion on the motion. Vice-Chairman expressed his concerns regarding Task #6 of the application for the pond construction because it was not clear if there is a legal water right for the existing pond. He also expressed concerns that if the pond feature would be decommissioned if it would be within the Commission's purview to authorize AWPf funds to turn the area into a community park. He further stated that he completely supports all other components of the project.

Chairman Jacobs inquired if the Commission could approve this project without Task #6. Mr. Teran referenced the grant application cover page which states:

*"The Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission may approve Grant Awards with modifications to scope items, methodology, schedule, final products and/or budget."*

Commissioner Blackmore inquired if a funding decision on this project could be tabled while additional information is gathered from the applicant. Commissioner Brick responded that the Commission could vote on this project but not award the funding for the pond component, and agreed with concerns made by Vice-Chairman Held. Commissioner Blackmore supported those comments.

Vice-Chairmen Held made a motion, to modify the previous motion, that the Commission approve grant application WPF2201 – Verde River Riparian Restoration - Highway 89A to Bignotti Picnic Site with the exception of excluding Task #6: Verde Village Property Owners Association Pond Restoration Planning from the grant award contract. Chairman Jacobs accepted this as a substitute motion, with a second from Commissioner Brick. Chairman Jacobs called for any discussion on the substitute motion. No comments were made.

Chairman Jacobs called for a vote on the substitute motion. Mr. Teran proceeded with a roll call vote:

- |                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| • Chairman Pat Jacobs            | Yes |
| • Vice-Chairman Rodney Held      | Yes |
| • Commissioner Brian Biesemeyer  | Yes |
| • Commissioner Shelley Blackmore | Yes |
| • Commissioner Paul Brick        | Yes |
| • Commissioner William Schock    | Yes |
| • Commissioner Stephen Turcotte  | Yes |

The motion passed unanimously.

WPF2202 – Assessing Aquifer Withdrawals to Sustain Baseflow in Streams and Springs - Coconino/Redwall-Muav Aquifer Modeling Project Phase 2

Commissioner Biesemeyer made a motion to approve application WPF2202 – Assessing Aquifer Withdrawals to Sustain Baseflow in Streams and Springs -Coconino/Redwall-Muav Aquifer Modeling Project Phase 2, with a second from Commissioner Stephen Turcotte.

Chairman Jacobs asked for any discussion on the motion. Commissioner Biesemeyer commented that he does have some concerns about the overall applicability and link of this project to the mission of AWPf program, but did acknowledge that there was a potential to impact riparian areas by constraining groundwater pumping. Commissioner Brick commented that he feels this project is a real stretch for the program and even though there is funding available doesn't mean they should have to spend it on a proposal that doesn't necessarily meet the AWPf program criteria. Vice-Chairman Held commented that he does see some value in this modeling effort but does agree with Commissioner Brick's comments that this project does not meet the mission of the AWPf. Commissioner Schock commented that he did not really believe this modeling effort would support the AWPf.

Chairman Jacobs called for a vote on the motion. Mr. Teran proceeded with a roll call vote:

- |                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| • Chairman Pat Jacobs            | No  |
| • Vice-Chairman Rodney Held      | No  |
| • Commissioner Brian Biesemeyer  | Yes |
| • Commissioner Shelley Blackmore | No  |
| • Commissioner Paul Brick        | No  |
| • Commissioner William Schock    | No  |
| • Commissioner Stephen Turcotte  | No  |

The motion failed.

WPF2203 – Little Green Valley Fen Restoration Feasibility Study

Vice-Chairman Held made a motion to approve application WPF2203 – Little Green Valley Fen Restoration Feasibility Study, with a second from Commissioner Brick.

Chairman Jacobs asked for any discussion on the motion. Commissioners Schock commented that this will be a very expensive project, and that photos in the application show there are major problems in the area including a large head cut, but felt the proposed solutions were not going to do much to solve them.

Chairman Jacobs requested clarification that this project was a study, and not an actual restoration effort. Mr. Teran responded that this project is a feasibility study and the applicant would be collecting data to help determine what restoration options would be the most feasible, with the goal of developing an actual restoration plan and implementation budget as part of the final products for the project. Chairman Jacobs commented that he sees value and supports data collection efforts that will inform future restoration efforts.

Chairman Jacobs called for a vote on the motion. Mr. Teran proceeded with a roll call vote:

- |                                  |           |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| • Chairman Pat Jacobs            | Yes       |
| • Vice-Chairman Rodney Held      | Yes       |
| • Commissioner Brian Biesemeyer  | Abstained |
| • Commissioner Shelley Blackmore | Yes       |
| • Commissioner Paul Brick        | Yes       |
| • Commissioner William Schock    | No        |
| • Commissioner Stephen Turcotte  | Yes       |

The motion passed.

WPF2204 – The Path to Protection at Oak Creek: Social Trail Rehabilitation for Watershed Health

Commissioner Biesemeyer made a motion to approve application WPF2204 – The Path to Protection at Oak Creek: Social Trail Rehabilitation for Watershed Health, with a second from Commissioner Brick.

Chairman Jacobs asked for any discussion on the motion. Commissioner Brick commented that a lot of funding is being requested to close down trails especially when parking areas are already being closed down to alleviate the trail problems. Vice-Chairman Held commented that the concept is good and can see the benefit, but was hoping there would have been more of a discussion on how this project would help the riparian habitat. Commissioner Biesemeyer commented that trail improvements and closures could help with erosion issues into Oak Creek, but did share the concerns about the amount of funding requested and the lack of information provided regarding the restoration of the trails. Commissioner Schock commented that the amount of sediment entering the system from the trail did not appear significant based on the information in the application. He also expressed concern about the continuing number of trails that need to be restored and stated that they are not solving the bigger problem of trail creation. Vice-Chairman Held commented that he understands from the presentation that there are not many more new trails being created, but that the applicant is intending to restore or decommission existing trails. Commissioner Blackmore commented that this appears to be more of a people management problem when they don't pick up their trash. Commissioner Biesemeyer agreed with Vice-Chairman Held's comments that the applicant is proposing to restore or decommission existing trails.

Chairman Jacobs called for a vote on the motion. Mr. Teran proceeded with a roll call vote:

- |                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| • Chairman Pat Jacobs            | Yes |
| • Vice-Chairman Rodney Held      | Yes |
| • Commissioner Brian Biesemeyer  | Yes |
| • Commissioner Shelley Blackmore | Yes |
| • Commissioner Paul Brick        | No  |
| • Commissioner William Schock    | No  |
| • Commissioner Stephen Turcotte  | Yes |

The motion passed.

WPF2205 – Developing Water Conservation Capacity and Outreach Materials with Local Governments in Rural Arizona

Vice-Chairman Held made a motion to approve application WPF2205 – Developing Water Conservation Capacity and Outreach Materials with Local Governments in Rural Arizona, with a second from Commissioner Biesemeyer.

Chairman Jacobs asked for any discussion on the motion. Commissioner Biesemeyer commented that this appears to be a good project but did not feel that it meets the mission of the AWPF. Vice-Chairman Held and Commissioner Brick both agreed with Commissioner Biesemeyer's comments.

Chairman Jacobs called for a vote on the motion. Mr. Teran proceeded with a roll call vote:

- |                                  |    |
|----------------------------------|----|
| • Chairman Pat Jacobs            | No |
| • Vice-Chairman Rodney Held      | No |
| • Commissioner Brian Biesemeyer  | No |
| • Commissioner Shelley Blackmore | No |
| • Commissioner Paul Brick        | No |
| • Commissioner William Schock    | No |
| • Commissioner Stephen Turcotte  | No |

The motion failed.

WPF2206 – Dye Ranch Erosion Control and Wetland Improvement Project

Vice-Chairman Held made a motion to approve application WPF2206 – Dye Ranch Erosion Control and Wetland Improvement Project, with a second from Commissioner Brick.

Chairman Jacobs asked for any discussion on the motion. Vice-Chairman wanted to further clarify a comment he previously made during the application presentation. He stated that during the presentation the applicant stated they have submitted a Statement of Claim for a surface water right, which is intended to support a pre-1919 water use under the adjudications laws, and he suggested that the appropriate course of action would be for the applicant to pursue a Certificate of Water Right, pending the evaluation of the Arizona Department of Water Resources. He further commented that he believes it is a good project.

Mr. Teran requested clarification from the Commission regarding the potential funding amount for this application because the application requested \$76,941, staff's budget calculation totaled \$76,935, and the applicant's budget in the presentation totaled \$76,945. Vice-Chairman Held amended his previous motion to approve application WPF2206 – Dye Ranch Erosion Control and Wetland Improvement Project with funding not to exceed \$76,945, with a second from Commissioner Brick.

Chairman Jacobs called for a vote on the amended motion. Mr. Teran proceeded with a roll call vote:

- |                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| • Chairman Pat Jacobs            | Yes |
| • Vice-Chairman Rodney Held      | Yes |
| • Commissioner Brian Biesemeyer  | Yes |
| • Commissioner Shelley Blackmore | Yes |
| • Commissioner Paul Brick        | Yes |

- Commissioner William Schock Yes
- Commissioner Stephen Turcotte Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

WPF2207 – Restoration of Tacna Marsh

Commissioner Brick made a motion to approve application WPF2207 – Restoration of Tacna Marsh, with a second from Commissioner Biesemeyer.

Chairman Jacobs asked for any discussion on the motion. Vice-Chairman Held commented that one of his biggest concerns is that the way the applicant is proposing to restore the marsh is by changing from a natural system to more of a man-made system by cutting off the marsh from the natural hydrologic flow by lining the ponds. He further stated that the project does offer great habitat value and recreational opportunities for the public, but is concerned due to the loss of the hydrologic connection. Commissioner Schock agreed with Vice-Chairman Held's comments, and stated that once the ponds are lined all the surrounding habitat around the ponds are cut off and the connection to the marsh habitat is lost.

Chairman Jacobs called for a vote on the motion. Mr. Teran proceeded with a roll call vote:

- Chairman Pat Jacobs No
- Vice-Chairman Rodney Held No
- Commissioner Brian Biesemeyer No
- Commissioner Shelley Blackmore No
- Commissioner Paul Brick No
- Commissioner William Schock No
- Commissioner Stephen Turcotte No

The motion failed.

WPF2208 – Habitat Restoration in the Gila River Riparian Corridor

Vice-Chairman Held made a motion to approve application WPF2208 – Habitat Restoration in the Gila River Riparian Corridor, with a second from Commissioner Brick.

Chairman Jacobs asked for any discussion on the motion. Vice-Chairman Held commented that he is in favor of this project but wants to ensure that there is some follow-up regarding staff's review comments that the specific project sites proposed for restoration in this application do no overlap with those that were funded through previous AWPf grants or conflict with AWPf operation and maintenance clauses. Mr. Teran commented that during today's presentation the applicant acknowledged that the proposed restoration areas are within the same planning polygons as the previous AWPf grant, but stated that specific restoration areas for this application are different and do not overlap. Mr. Teran stated that he will follow up with the grant applicant to get this verification in writing prior to having the Chairman sign a grant award contract if the project is selected for funding.

Chairman Jacobs called for a vote on the motion. Mr. Teran proceeded with a roll call vote:

- Chairman Pat Jacobs Yes
- Vice-Chairman Rodney Held Yes
- Commissioner Brian Biesemeyer Yes

- Commissioner Shelley Blackmore Yes
- Commissioner Paul Brick Yes
- Commissioner William Schock Yes
- Commissioner Stephen Turcotte Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

WPF2209 – Ravenna & Pampas Grass Control along the Colorado River from Glen Canyon Dam to Diamond Creek

Vice-Chairman Held made a motion to approve application WPF2209 – Ravenna & Pampas Grass Control along the Colorado River from Glen Canyon Dam to Diamond Creek, with a second from Commissioner Turcotte.

Chairman Jacobs asked for any discussion on the motion. No comments were made.

Chairman Jacobs called for a vote on the motion. Mr. Teran proceeded with a roll call vote:

- Chairman Pat Jacobs Yes
- Vice-Chairman Rodney Held Yes
- Commissioner Brian Biesemeyer Yes
- Commissioner Shelley Blackmore Yes
- Commissioner Paul Brick Yes
- Commissioner William Schock Yes
- Commissioner Stephen Turcotte Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

WPF2210 – Enhancement and Maintenance Plans and Designs for Three Rio de Flag Perennial Ponds and Related Wetlands

Commissioner Brick made a motion to approve application WPF2210 – Enhancement and Maintenance Plans and Designs for Three Rio de Flag Perennial Ponds and Related Wetlands, with a second from Commissioner Biesemeyer.

Chairman Jacobs asked for any discussion on the motion. Vice-Chairman Held stated that he has concerns about the budget and agrees with Commissioner Shock's earlier comments regarding the lump sum costs described in the grant application budget, and lack of details provided to assess how those costs or totals were derived. Commissioner Biesemeyer commented that that he agrees with Vice-Chairman Held's comment, and expressed an additional concern that the scope of work included a task to assess a dam. He commented that this should be a City of Flagstaff flood control responsibility and did not see how using AWPf funds for assessing their asset meets the mission of the AWPf. Commissioner Brick expressed concern about the future upstream flood control project that may obliterate any AWPf funded efforts, and that there has been no coordination between the applicant and the proponents of the flood control project.

Chairman Jacobs called for a vote on the motion. Mr. Teran proceeded with a roll call vote:

- Chairman Pat Jacobs No
- Vice-Chairman Rodney Held No
- Commissioner Brian Biesemeyer No

- |                                  |    |
|----------------------------------|----|
| • Commissioner Shelley Blackmore | No |
| • Commissioner Paul Brick        | No |
| • Commissioner William Schock    | No |
| • Commissioner Stephen Turcotte  | No |

The motion failed.

WPF2211 – Kirkland Restoration of Proper Stream Channel Characteristics

Commissioner Schock made a motion to approve application WPF2211 – Kirkland Restoration of Proper Stream Channel Characteristics, with a second from Commissioner Brick.

Chairman Jacobs asked for any discussion on the motion. Vice-Chairman Held commented that he sees the value of this project and wants to support the Conservation District's work, but did have a few concerns regarding the project in that it primarily described the flood control aspects of the project; only included a brief mention of the riparian habitat benefits; and did not include a description of the riparian vegetation or revegetation effort that would potentially be implemented or the overall monitoring component of the project. He further commented that he did not have a good sense of how the riparian habitat or wildlife values of the project area would be enhanced, outside of the flood control aspect, and there were not any details provided to assess the proposed photo and drone monitoring components. Commissioner Biesemeyer inquired if the Commission can request further clarification about the restoration and monitoring components at this time, and commented that it would have been helpful to have documentation or evidence from the railroad about their support of the proposed actions and prior financial contributions to the overall project, and the overall revegetation effort. Vice-Chairman Held responded that the applicant's presentation essentially took the fully 20 minutes with little to no time for any follow-up questions, and wished there was more time to discuss these questions during the presentation. He further commented that the Commission is tasked with making decisions based on the information that has been provided, and it would not be fair to other applicants if the Commission would go back to ask additional clarifying questions after the presentation time, or add additional items to this project's scope of work to make the project what the Commission would want it to be. Commissioner Brick agreed with Vice-Chairman Held's comments, and believes this is more of a flood control project and did not address what riparian improvements they were going to make. He also agreed with Vice-Chairman Held that the Commission cannot change the application in a major way to include what the Commission would want.

Chairman Jacobs called for a vote on the motion. Mr. Teran proceeded with a roll call vote:

- |                                  |           |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| • Chairman Pat Jacobs            | No        |
| • Vice-Chairman Rodney Held      | No        |
| • Commissioner Brian Biesemeyer  | No        |
| • Commissioner Shelley Blackmore | Abstained |
| • Commissioner Paul Brick        | No        |
| • Commissioner William Schock    | No        |
| • Commissioner Stephen Turcotte  | Yes       |

The motion failed.

Mr. Teran filled in the dollar amounts on the FY 2022 Grant Cycle Funds Tracking spreadsheet for the projects that the Commission selected for funding, including any approved budget modifications. He stated that the Commission has awarded funding for 6 projects totaling \$780,911.



Chairman Jacobs asked for any discussion on the FY 2022 Grant Cycle funds Tracking spreadsheet. No comments were made, and the voting record and fund allocations tables were finalized.

### **CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Chairman Jacob made a call to the public. No public comments were made.

### **CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Chairman Jacobs made a call for future agenda items. No items were suggested by Commission members.

Chairman Jacobs stated that the Honorable David Cook from the Arizona House of Representatives who is non-voting ex officio member of the AWPf Commission previously made public statements that there was a need to remove salt cedar from a waterway in his District. He asked the Commission if there would be any objection for him to reach out to Representative Cook's office about the AWPf program and direct the Executive Director to meet with interested parties about the opportunity to submit a grant application for this project in the FY 2023 grant cycle. No objections were made.

Chairman Jacobs commented that he understands the Legislature is now providing funding to other State agencies to deal with invasive species issues such as salt cedar. He stated that he would like to investigate this further and provide a report back to the Commission. He further commented that he believes the AWPf does a good, thorough job of evaluating these types of projects in a public forum, and was not sure if Legislators are fully aware of what the program does since funding is also being allocated to other State agencies for issues that this Commission currently deals with. He suggested the Commission consider an education program for Legislators. He also suggested a future discussion with the Commission about the current direction of the AWPf program and to see if there is a need or interest to explore prioritizing other types of projects to consider for funding. Commissioner Blackmore commented that there is always a need to continue educating Legislators. Commissioner Brick supported educating Legislators as much as possible. Commissioner Biesemeyer supported educating Legislators on the role of the AWPf and how funding the program really does help the State and our water supply, and commented that it would be important for the Commission to understand why other agencies are also receiving funding for these activities. Chairman Jacobs asked if there were any objections to moving forward with these activities. No objections were made.

The proposed future agenda items will tentatively be:

- A report from the Chairman regarding Legislative relations
- A discussion if there is a need to prioritize funding for other AWPf projects or programs

### **FUTURE MEETING DATE(S)**

The Commission selected Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. as the next full Commission meeting date. Mr. Teran stated that this will be general business meeting of the Commission and will most likely be another virtual meeting. He also stated that hybrid in-person/virtual meetings could also be an option for future meetings depending on current public health guidelines.

Chairman Jacobs acknowledged and thanked the Commissioner members for their time and efforts reviewing the grant application proposals and for participation in today's meeting. Chairman Jacobs and the Commission members thanked Mr. Teran for his efforts of creating and facilitating a successful online grant application submittal process.

**ADJOURN**

With no other agenda items, the meeting adjourned at approximately 5:20 p.m.

DRAFT

To: Reuben Terán  
Executive Director  
Arizona Water Protection Fund

The Gila Valley Irrigation District would like to request a contract extension and modification for AWPf Grant 20-202WPF (GVID Optimization). Due to a drastic increase in the price of the canal gates, availability of materials, and the contractor bids we received for gate removal and installation, we are requesting an extension of the contract expiration date and a modification of the existing tasks and associated costs.

We have been working diligently with USDA NRCS on obtaining engineering designs and have obtained a quote from the only local contractor available for the project. NRCS has developed the engineering design and is in the process of finalizing it for approval. We do have an existing EQUIP contract with NRCS to offset the cost of the gate installation, but due to this being a government program, we are tied to the fixed rates and are not able to modify that contract for additional funds. Without a modification to AWPf Grant 20-202WPF (GVID Optimization) we do not have the funds to implement and complete the project. Due to the unforeseen circumstances and economic impacts we are facing with this project, we would like to request the proposed modifications to our grant:

**Task #2: Develop and Submit Project Work Plans –**

Lateral Gate Upgrade/Replacement Plan has been developed but will be updated and submitted to WPF for review once we receive approved engineering designs. We request a new task due date of 7/1/2022. This task has a \$0 reimbursable cost. No modification to the cost is being requested.

Water Use Monitoring Work Plan has not been initiated. This will be developed and submitted to WPF for review once gate installation commences and the monitoring sites are selected. Requested new task due date of 12/1/2022. This task has a \$0 reimbursable cost. No modification to the cost is being requested.

Education and Outreach work plan has not been initiated. We will be able to develop this plan as soon as we address the current issues with the contract cost and know the project can proceed. Requested new task due date of 12/1/2022. This task has a \$0 reimbursable cost. No modification to the cost is being requested.

**Task #3: Implement Gate Upgrades/Replacements on the Smithville & Dodge-Nevada Canals**

Due to the cost and limited contractors in the area, we are requesting that this task be modified to only include the Smithville and Dodge-Nevada Canals. Limiting the project to these canals will ensure that we are able to implement the project in a more cost-effective and timely manner and adhere to the NRCS standard and specifications. Since work must commence when the canals

are dry, we anticipate being able to begin installation in early October 2022. We are requesting the task due dates be modified to January 31, 2023, July 31, 2023 and January 31, 2024. We anticipate being able to have a minimum of 19-20 gates installed during each reporting period. Due to the unforeseen price increase in materials and labor, we are requesting a modification to the reimbursable cost associated with this task. The quote we received was substantially higher than the original costs collected when developing the original grant budget. We are requesting the following modification to the cost for Task 3:

## **II. Outside Service Costs Contract Labor**

gate removal & replacement, includes labor & gates

\$12,000 per gate @ 58 gates

Total Cost = \$696,000.00

GVID Cost Share = \$95,120.00

ADWR Funds = \$600,880.00 (\$100,500 existing funds in Task 3, \$133,500 transfer funds from Task 4. A total of \$366,880 is needed in additional funds for gates)

**IV. Capital Outlay & Equipment Costs (Machinery & Vehicle Fuel):** Move costs from Task 4 to Task 3.

**V. Administrative Costs:** On Task 3 admin costs reduced to 2.5% for a total of \$15,072.00. (Task 3 original funds: \$5125; transfer admin funds from Task 4: \$6,900. A total of \$3,047 additional funds needed for admin).

## **Task #4: Implement Gate Upgrade/Replacement on the Union Canal**

Due to the cost and limited contractors in the area, we are requesting that this task be removed from the project and the project funds be moved to Task 3. Items 2, 4 and 5 under this task have been moved to Task 3.

## **Task #5: Implement Education and Outreach**

Due to delays in implementing the project deliverables, we are requesting a new task due date of April 30, 2023 and November 30, 2023.

## **Task 6: Implement Water Use Monitoring**

Due to delays in implementing the project deliverables, we are requesting a new task due date of January 31, 2024

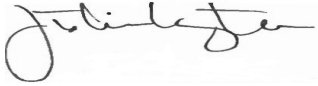
## **Task 7: Final Report**

Due to delays in implementing the project deliverables, we are requesting a new task due date of June 30, 2024

**Contract Expiration Date** – Due to the delay in obtaining engineering designs and unforeseen circumstances with the project costs, we are requesting the contract expiration date be rescheduled for September 30, 2024.

Thank you for your time and consideration on the proposed modification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Layton", written over a light gray rectangular background.

Justin Layton, GVID

Detailed Budget:

Task 1: Permits, Authorizations, Clearances, and Agreements					
Description	Unit Cost	Qty.	Total	GVID	AZ WPF
I. Direct Labor Costs					
Project Manager - Gila Valley Irrigation District (In-Kind)	\$ 25.00	40	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$0.00
II. Outside Service Costs					
Outside Expenses Total					
III. Other Direct Costs					
Direct Expenses Subtotal					
IV. Capital Outlay & Equipment Costs					
Capital Outlay & Equipment Subtotal					
TASK SUBTOTAL			\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
V. Administrative Costs					
Administrative Costs (5%)					
Administrative Subtotal					
TASK SUBTOTAL			\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$0.00
Task 2: Develop and SubmitProject Work Plans (Lateral Gate Upgrade / Replacement Plan, Water Use Monitoring Plan & Education and Outreach Plan)					
Description	Unit Cost	Qty.	Total	Gila Valley Irrigation District	Arizona Water Protection Fund
I. Direct Labor Costs					
Project Manager - Gila Valley Irrigation District					
Direct Expenses Total					
II. Outside Service Costs					
Contract Labor -gate removal & replacement, includes labor & gates					
Outside Expenses Total					
III. Other Direct Costs					
Direct Expenses Subtotal					
IV. Capital Outlay & Equipment Costs					
Machinery Fuel					
Vehicle Fuel					
Capital Outlay & Equipment Subtotal					
TASK SUBTOTAL					
V. Administrative Costs					
Administrative Costs (5%)					
Administrative Subtotal					
TASK SUBTOTAL			\$ -	\$0.00	\$ -
Task 3: Implement Gate Upgrade/Replacement Plan on Smithville Canal & Dodge-Nevada					
Description	Unit Cost	Qty.	Total	Gila Valley Irrigation District	Arizona Water Protection Fund
I. Direct Labor Costs					
Project Manager - Gila Valley Irrigation District	\$ 25.00	100	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,500.00
Direct Expenses Total			\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,500.00
II. Outside Service Costs					
Contract Labor -gate removal & replacement, includes labor & gates	\$12,000.00	58	\$ 696,000.00	\$ 95,120.00	\$600,880.00
Outside Expenses Total					
III. Other Direct Costs					

<b>Direct Expenses Subtotal</b>					
<b>IV. Capital Outlay &amp; Equipment Costs (Machinery &amp; Vehicle Fuel)</b>					
Machinery Fuel		1	\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00
Vehicle Fuel		1	\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00
<b>Capital Outlay &amp; Equipment Subtotal</b>			\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1000.00
<b>TASK SUBTOTAL</b>			\$ 699,500.00	\$ 96,120.00	\$ 603,380.00
<b>V. Administrative Costs</b>					
Administrative Costs (2.5%)		1	\$ 15,072.00		\$ 15,072.00
<b>Administrative Subtotal</b>					
<b>TASK SUBTOTAL</b>			\$ 714,572.00	\$96,120.00	\$618,452.00

<b>Task 4: Implement Gate Upgrade/Replacement Plan on Union Canal</b>					
				Gila Valley Irrigation District	Arizona Water Protection Fund
<b>Description</b>	<b>Unit Cost</b>	<b>Qty.</b>	<b>Total</b>		
<b>I. Direct Labor Costs</b>					
Project Manager - Gila Valley Irrigation District					
<b>Direct Expenses Total</b>					
<b>II. Outside Service Costs</b>					
Contract Labor - Gate removal & replacement,includes labor & gates					
<b>Outside Expenses Total</b>					
<b>III. Other Direct Costs</b>					
<b>Direct Expenses Subtotal</b>					
<b>IV. Capital Outlay &amp; Equipment Costs</b>					
Machinery Fuel					
Vehicle Fuel					
<b>Capital Outlay &amp; Equipment Subtotal</b>					
<b>TASK SUBTOTAL</b>					
<b>V. Administrative Costs</b>					
Administrative Costs (5%)					
<b>Administrative Subtotal</b>					
<b>TASK SUBTOTAL</b>			\$ -	\$0.00	\$ -

<b>Task 5: Implement Outreach &amp; Education</b>					
				Gila Valley Irrigation District	Arizona Water Protection Fund
<b>Description</b>	<b>Unit Cost</b>	<b>Qty.</b>	<b>Total</b>		
<b>I. Direct Labor Costs</b>					
Project Manager - Gila Valley Irrigation District	\$ 25.00	50	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,000.00
<b>Direct Expenses Total</b>					
<b>II. Outside Service Costs</b>					
<b>Outside Expenses Total</b>					
<b>III. Other Direct Costs</b>					
<b>Direct Expenses Subtotal</b>					
<b>IV. Capital Outlay &amp; Equipment Costs</b>					
<b>Capital Outlay &amp; Equipment Subtotal</b>					
<b>TASK SUBTOTAL</b>			\$ -		
<b>V. Administrative Costs</b>					
Administrative Costs (5%)					
<b>Administrative Subtotal</b>					\$ 50.00
<b>TASK SUBTOTAL</b>			\$ 1,300.00	\$250.00	\$ 1,050.00

<b>Task 6: Implement Water Use Monitoring</b>					
Description	Unit Cost	Qty.	Total	Gila Valley Irrigation District	Arizona Water Protection Fund
<b>I. Direct Labor Costs</b>					
Project Manager - Gila Valley Irrigation District	\$ 25.00	100	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00
<b><i>Direct Expenses Total</i></b>					
<b>II. Outside Service Costs</b>					
<b>Outside Expenses Total</b>					
<b>III. Other Direct Costs</b>					
<b><i>Direct Expenses Subtotal</i></b>					
<b>IV. Capital Outlay &amp; Equipment Costs</b>					
<b>Capital Outlay &amp; Equipment Subtotal</b>					
<b>TASK SUBTOTAL</b>			\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00
<b>V. Administrative Costs</b>					
Administrative Costs (5%)					\$ 125.00
<b><i>Administrative Subtotal</i></b>					\$ 125.00
<b>TASK SUBTOTAL</b>			\$ 2,625.00	\$0.00	\$ 2,625.00
<b>Task 7: Final Report</b>					
Description	Unit Cost	Qty.	Total	Gila Valley Irrigation District	Arizona Water Protection Fund
<b>I. Direct Labor Costs</b>					
Project Manager - Gila Valley Irrigation District	\$ 25.00	60	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,250.00
<b><i>Direct Expenses Total</i></b>					
<b>II. Outside Service Costs</b>					
<b>Outside Expenses Total</b>					
<b>III. Other Direct Costs</b>					
Postage, Printing, etc.		1	\$ 250.00		\$ 250.00
<b><i>Direct Expenses Subtotal</i></b>					
<b>IV. Capital Outlay &amp; Equipment Costs</b>					
<b>Capital Outlay &amp; Equipment Subtotal</b>					
<b>TASK SUBTOTAL</b>			\$ 1,750.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,500.00
<b>V. Administrative Costs</b>					
Administrative Costs (5%)					\$ 75.00
<b><i>Administrative Subtotal</i></b>					
<b>TASK SUBTOTAL</b>			\$ 1,825.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,575.00
<b>Total Arizona Water Protection Fund Request:</b>				<b>\$623,702.00</b>	
<b>InKind Project Match:</b>				<b>\$ 97,620.00</b>	
<b>Total Project Budget:</b>				<b>\$721,322.00</b>	





Reuben Teran <rteran@azwater.gov>

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## Re: Next AWPf Commission Meeting - February 8, 2022

1 message

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Kyle Thompson [REDACTED] >

Fri, Jan 28, 2022 at 6:24 AM

To: Reuben Teran <rteran@azwater.gov>

Cc: Bill Dunn [REDACTED], Chris Postel Clerk WNRCD <clerk.wnrcd@gmail.com>, Steve Turcotte <Stephen.Turcotte@gmail.com>

Hello Reuben,

Is this ok in email form or does the WNRCD need to submit a signed letter?

The Winkelman NRCD would like to formally request an extension for the "Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District Riparian Restoration" project. We are requesting this extension because authorization from the USFWS took an unexpected 1.5 years to respond to requests for technical assistance, ensuring that the project would not need official section 7 clearance. This request went unanswered and unanswered correspondence from WNRCD to USFWS has been documented thoroughly. We received authorization via letter from USFWS as of December 2021 and the project has been back underway. We would like to push the project completion date back 1 year due to the 1.5 year delay.

Task updates and proposed new deadlines for unfinished tasks:

Task 1

Completed except Native Seed Subcontractor agreement

No change on date

Task 2

Complete

Task 3

Complete

Task 4 Tamarisk removal

We would like to change the removal completion date from March 31, 2021 to March 31, 2022.

Task 5 Purchase Plant Material

We propose to change the date from June 30, 2021 to November 15, 2023.

We plan to purchase and plant trees and shrubs as well as coordinate with the local nursery to grow out specific plants. Most planting should be completed by January 2023, however if there is money left in the plant budget we would do a final round of planting by November 2023.

Task 6 Post treatment site maintenance and monitoring

We would like to push this due date from June 15, 2022 to November 15, 2023 to ensure there is adequate time to treat regrowing salt cedar after initial removal by March 2022.

Task 7 Final report

We would like to push the final report for this project from October 31, 2022 to December 15, 2023.

Final termination date:

We would like to push the final contract termination date 1 year from December 31, 2022 to December 31, 2023.

Kyle

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On Thu, Jan 27, 2022 at 8:34 AM Reuben Teran <rteran@azwater.gov> wrote:

Yes, tomorrow will work. Thanks.

Reuben

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On Thu, Jan 27, 2022 at 6:35 AM Kyle Thompson [REDACTED] > wrote:

Hi Reuben,

Yes we would like to adjust the end date and request an extension. I need to sit down and look over the budget and timing. I've been working in the field last couple weeks. Can I get it to you by tomorrow?

Kyle

On Fri, Jan 14, 2022 at 12:59 PM Reuben Teran <[rteran@azwater.gov](mailto:rteran@azwater.gov)> wrote:

Kyle

Given the delays on implementing AWPF grant 20-204WPF, I wanted to follow up to see if you were still intending to request a contract extension. If you are, please provide me notification in writing and explain the current circumstances, proposed deliverable due dates for existing Tasks, and requested contract expiration date. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you.

Reuben Terán | Executive Director

Arizona Water Protection Fund



Reuben Teran <rteran@azwater.gov>

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**RE: Next AWPf Commission Meeting - February 8, 2022**

1 message

**Sasha Stortz** <sstortz@nationalforests.org>

Tue, Feb 1, 2022 at 2:12 PM

To: Reuben Teran <rteran@azwater.gov>, Rebecca Davidson <rdavidson@nationalforests.org>

Hi Reuben,

As promised, here is more information on our request for an extension for Grant 20-205 (Fossil Creek).

The Backbone Fire which burned in 2021 is impacting the timeline of our Grant 20-205 to monitor and treat invasive species in Fossil Creek. Due to human safety concerns such as debris dams and post-fire flooding into the Fossil Creek area, the Coconino and Tonto National Forest have issued a closure order for Fossil Creek. With these closures in effect, we are unable to access treatment areas to be addressed under this grant. The Forests will be re-evaluating the closure this year, but we expect the area to remain closed through the summer monsoon season, re-opening in fall 2022. Based on discussions with partners, we are anticipating our work to be authorized in Fossil Creek in late 2022. To accommodate these changes, we are requesting shifts in several deliverable due dates for existing tasks. We anticipate that work can be completed as proposed by 2024, but would also like to request to extend the contract date to May 7, 2025 to accommodate any further adjustments due to uncertainty around watershed conditions and safety after the fire. We do not anticipate any changes to budget or tasks, only to timeline.

**Proposed New Deliverable Due Dates**

**Task 3: Implement Monitoring and Initial Vegetation Treatment Plans in Lower Fossil Creek and Blackberry Phase 1**

Blackberry Treatment is Complete

Shift Lower Fossil Creek treatment to from Feb 28, 2022 to Feb 28, 2023

**Task 4: Implement Monitoring and Retreatment Plans for all Fossil Creek Reaches and Blackberry Phase II**

Shift Lower and Middle Fossil Creek Retreatment Reports from Feb 28, 2022 and 2023 to Feb 28, 2024

Shift Blackberry Phase II Retreatment Report from Feb 28, 2022 to Feb 28, 2023

**Task 5: Final Report and Oral Presentation**

Shift date from April 30, 2023 to April 30, 2024

Please reach out if you have any additional questions or suggestions. We really appreciate the support of AWPf and look forward to the successful completion of this project in spite of challenging conditions caused by the Backbone Fire.

Best,

Sasha

Sasha Stortz

Arizona Program Manager – National Forest Foundation

Mobile: [REDACTED]

**Arizona Department of Water Resources**  
**Water Protection Fund**  
FY 2022 Fund Activity  
For the period July 1, 2021, through January 31, 2022

Description	1302-WPF Grants	1303-WPF Administration	Total
<b>Beginning Fund Balance - 7/1/2021</b>	<b>\$2,099,328</b>	<b>\$39,342</b>	<b>\$2,138,670</b>
<b><u>Revenues:</u></b>			
Interest Income	-\$548	\$4,522	\$3,973
In-Lieu Fee Deposit	\$0	\$0	\$0
General Fund Appropriation	\$625,000	\$0	\$625,000
Transfers - Administrative Expenses	(\$161,720)	\$161,720	\$0
<b>Total - Revenues</b>	<b>\$462,732</b>	<b>\$166,242</b>	<b>\$628,973</b>
<b><u>Expenditures:</u></b>			
Salary Expense	\$0	\$109,221	\$109,221
Grantee Payments	\$161,802	\$0	\$161,802
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total - Expenditures</b>	<b>\$161,802</b>	<b>\$109,221</b>	<b>\$271,023</b>
<b>Fund Balance - January 31, 2022</b>	<b>\$2,400,257</b>	<b>\$96,362</b>	<b>\$2,496,620</b>
Less: Existing Grant Obligations	(994,051)		
Less: Pending FY 2022 Grants	\$0		
<b>Uncommitted Balance</b>	<b>\$1,406,207</b>	<b>\$96,362</b>	<b>\$1,502,569</b>

REFERENCE TITLE: water protection fund; appropriation

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Fifty-fifth Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2022

# HB 2538

Introduced by  
Representative Griffin

AN ACT

APPROPRIATING MONIES TO THE ARIZONA WATER PROTECTION FUND.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Appropriation; Arizona water protection fund

3 The sum of \$1,000,000 is appropriated from the state general fund in  
4 fiscal year 2022-2023 to the Arizona water protection fund established by  
5 section 45-2111, Arizona Revised Statutes.

## STATUS OF ACTIVE AWPf GRANTS

as of February 1, 2022

### **19-194WPF: Davis Cattle Co. Grassland Restoration**

Grantee:	Arizona Association of Conservation Districts
AWPF Grant Amount	\$341,626.00
Total Paid to Date:	\$339,665.55
Contract Expiration Date:	March 31, 2022

The Grantee completed has implemented the aerial herbicide application on 5,345-acres to treat mesquite encroachment on grasslands on the Davis Ranch. Annual monitoring was completed in 2019, 2020, and 2021. Final deliverables remaining to close out the project are the 2021 monitoring report and the project final report.

### **20-202WPF: Gila Valley Irrigation District System Optimization Phase I**

Grantee:	Gila Valley Irrigation District
AWPF Grant Amount :	\$257,775
Total Paid to Date:	\$0
Contract Expiration Date:	September 30, 2023

The Grantee has obtained all permits necessary for the project with the exception of the USDA-Natural Resource Conservation District (NRCS) cultural resources clearance from their State Archaeologist. The Grantee has also been working with the NRCS on developing and obtaining engineering designs for the project that are currently 19 months past due, and a construction contractor has not yet been hired. Given these delays no gate replacement or upgrades have been implemented to date. Plans for the Water Monitoring Use and Education and Outreach components are also past due. Staff has been informed that costs for the project have increased dramatically and there are concerns about being able to complete the proposed work under the existing budget. Based on the current delays in implementation it is highly unlikely that the project will be completed within the existing project timeline and current contract expiration date.

### **20-204WPF: Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District Riparian Restoration**

Grantee:	Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District
AWPF Grant Amount :	\$205,844
Total Paid to Date:	\$41,168 (Advance Payment)
Contract Expiration Date:	December 31, 2022

The Grantee has obtained all permits necessary for the project, and is working on obtaining subcontract agreements for invasive species removal and native seed revegetation. Monitoring and restoration plans for the DuBoise Ranch, General Kearny Mounted Sheriff Posse of Pinal County, and Town of Kearny properties have been submitted and pre-restoration monitoring has been completed. There was an unexpected delay of approximately 1.5 to years obtain Section 7 endangered species consultation clearances and invasive species removal has only begun to take place. Due to these delays, project restoration and monitoring actions are not anticipated to be completed within the existing project timeline and current contract expiration date.

**20-205WPF: Upper, Middle, and Lower Fossil Creek Invasive Plant Removal**

Grantee: National Forest Foundation  
AWPF Grant Amount : \$98,662  
Total Paid to Date: \$13,700.47  
Contract Expiration Date: July 31, 2023

The Grantee has obtained all permits necessary for the project with the exception of the authorization of the Minimum Required Decision Guide for herbicide use in the Mazatzal Wilderness. The project monitoring, invasive vegetation treatment, and invasive vegetation re-treatment plans have all be completed and submitted. The Backbone Fire which burned in 2021 has affected the timeline to monitor and treat invasive species in Fossil Creek. The Coconino and Tonto National Forests have issued a closure order for Fossil Creek due to human safety concerns such as debris dams and post-fire flooding into the Fossil Creek area. With these closures in effect, the Grantee was unable to access treatment areas in 2021 and it is expected that the area will remain closed through the summer monsoon season, re-opening in fall 2022. These closures have caused significant delays and the project is not anticipated to be completed within the existing project timeline and current contract expiration date.

**20-206WPF: Quantifying Benefits for Brush Management on Arizona Rangelands**

Applicant: Arizona Association of Conservation Districts  
AWPF Grant Amount: \$50,000  
Total Paid to Date: \$0  
Contract Expiration Date: April 30, 2024

Due to COVID the Grantee was unable to secure staff or access agency offices to collect data, and initial work on this project was delayed. The Research Work Plan and Field Data Collection plans have recently been submitted and are under review. The Grantee has recently been assigned a university graduate student for the literature research who will begin work for the Published Research and Non-published Studies Report deliverable that is currently past due. Because of the delays obtaining staff at the outset of this project, issues accessing federal and state agency offices for file data, and potential delays for field training workshops and field data collection activities, staff does have concerns that the project may not be completed within the existing project timeline and current contract expiration date.

**20-207WPF: Harrenburg Wash Enhancement Project**

Grantee: Coconino County Parks & Recreation  
AWPF Grant Amount : \$129,190  
Total Paid to Date: \$81,918.17  
Contract Expiration Date: December 31, 2025

All permitting subcontracting agreements have been completed, and project restoration, monitoring, and public outreach plans have been submitted. All major earthwork and channel restoration activities have been completed, and work is progressing with invasive weed removal and revegetation efforts with cottonwoods, willows, and native seed. Baseline monitoring was implemented prior to ground disturbing activities and will continue throughout the project. Public outreach activities have included a volunteer workday to pull invasive weeds, a press release, project updates various social media platforms, newsletters, and information about the project the Coconino County website.



**20-208WPF: Paria Beach Riparian Restoration**

Grantee: Grand Canyon Wildlands Council  
AWPF Grant Amount : \$187,699  
Total Paid to Date: \$37,539 (Advance Payment)  
Contract Expiration Date: November 30, 2023

The Grantee experienced delays getting the project started, but has been working on obtaining all necessary permits and authorizations. Remaining deliverables for that task include project subcontract agreements for education and outreach activities and wildlife monitoring, burn permit authorization, and scientific collecting permit(s). The Vegetation, Wildlife, and Photo Monitoring Plans have been submitted. Historic project site and background information analysis deliverables are currently past due, and the Grantee is working with the National Park Service to obtain the applicable federal and state approvals to complete the burn activities for the project site. Restoration and Site Maintenance Plans are currently past due but are planned to be developed following the burn activities. Based on the current delays on the project it is not clear if the project will be able to be completed within the existing project time frame and current contract expiration date. The overall outlook for the project restoration activities and monitoring will be better understood when the burn activities have been completed. Staff has been in contact with the Grantee and there are plans to amend the existing deliverable due dates in the agreement to bring the contract back into compliance following the burn activities.

**20-209WPF: Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Verde River Riparian Restoration Project**

Applicant: Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation  
AWPF Grant Amount \$237,246  
Total Paid to Date: \$0  
Contract Expiration Date: November 20, 2022

The Grantee has submitted the Depth to Water and Soil Salinity Analysis, and Invasive Plant Removal and Restoration Plans for the Farm Site (RM 3.11R) and Sycamore (RM6.89L) project sites. Treatments on giant reed and tree tobacco along a 10-mile stretch of the Verde River and at the Fort McDowell Materials plant have commenced. Monitoring reports for the treated areas and a native plant materials report are currently past due.

**\*22-210WPF: Verde River Riparian Restoration – Highway 89A to Bignoti**

Grantee: Friends of the Verde River  
AWPF Grant Award \$247,350

The grant award contract is currently in negotiation with the Grantee. No other information to report at this time.

**\*22-211WPF: Little Green Valley Fen Restoration Feasibility Study**

Grantee: National Forest Foundation  
AWPF Grant Award \$77,003

The grant award contract is currently in negotiation with the Grantee. No other information to report at this time.

**\*22-212WPF: The Path to Protection at Oak Creek – Social Trail Rehabilitation for Watershed Health**

Grantee: Arizona Department of Environmental Quality  
AWPF Grant Award \$238,980

The grant award contract is currently in negotiation with the Grantee. No other information to report at this time.

**\*22-213WPF: Dye Ranch Erosion Control and Wetland Improvement Project**

Grantee: Arizona Game and Fish Department  
AWPF Grant Award \$76,945

The grant award contract has not yet been developed. Meetings have been taking place with Arizona Department of Water Resources Surface Water Program staff to determine if a surface water right will be necessary for this project. No other information to report at this time.

**\*22-214WPF: Habitat Restoration in the Gila River Corridor**

Grantee: Gila Watershed Partnership of Arizona  
AWPF Grant Award \$97,455

The grant award contract is currently in negotiation with the Grantee. The Grantee has been requested to provide written clarification that the proposed treatment areas do not overlap with any project areas previously funded under AWPf Grant 17-190WPF. An agreement will not be finalized for signature until the requested clarification has been provided in writing. No other information to report at this time.

**\*22-215WPF: Ravenna and Pampas Grass Control Along the Colorado River**

Grantee: RiversEdge West  
AWPF Grant Award \$43,178

The Grantee has been requested to provide written authorization or a letter of support for the project from the National Park Service prior to the development of a grant award contract as outlined in the AWPf staff project review and approved by the Commission. No other information to report at this time.